

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 EUR-12 /085 W

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R 071004Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PUBLIC PERSONALITIES DEBATE INTERIM
AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF INTERIM AGREE-
MENT HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR ACTIVITY IN COMPETITION TO
WIN OVER PUBLIC OPINION AND AFFECT OUTCOME OF GOI
DELIBERATIONS. IN LAST WEEK MOSHE DAYAN AND ARIK
SHARON HAVE COME OUT AGAINST NEW AGREEMENT WHILE
AHARON YARIV AND EX-AIR FORCE COMMANDER EZER WEIZMAN
HAVE URGED POSITIVE OUTCOME. ARGUMENTS FOCUS ON
RELATIVE MERITS OF MILITARY/STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS
VS. IMPLICATIONS FOR US-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND ISRAELI'S
DIPLOMATIC SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AS DECISIVE MOMENT RE INTERIM GOE/GOI AGREEMENT
APPARENTLY DRAWS NEAR, PUBLIC DEBATE ON IMPLICATIONS
OF ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION HAS GONE INTO HIGH GEAR. IN LAST
WEEK, FOUR FORMER GENERALS -- ALL OF WHOM ARE NOW ACTIVE
POLITICALLY -- HAVE TAKEN PUBLIC POSITIONS ON AGREE-
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MENT.

2. EX-IAF COMMANDER EZER WEIZMAN, MEMBER OF THE RIGHT-WING HERUT (LIKUD) PARTY, HAS BROKEN LIKUD'S UNIFIED OPPOSITION TO INTERIM AGREEMENT, URGING POSITIVE CONCLUSION IN ORDER TO SECURE THREE YEARS OF QUIET FOR STRENGTHENING IDF AND FOR ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT⁹ IN WEEKEND RADIO INTERVIEW, WEIZMAN CHARACTERIZED ISSUE OF PASSES AS "BRIGADE COMMANDER'S ARGUMENT."

3. FORMER CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AHARON YARIV (HE IS NOW LABOR PARTY MK FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION FROM CABINET EARLIER THIS YEAR) AT LABOR ALIGNMENT FACTION MEETING JULY 1 URGED GOI TO SHOW "TERRITORIAL FLEXIBILITY" ON PASSES IN ORDER TO REACH INTERIM AGREEMENT AND AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID, GOI SHOULD BE FIRM IN RESISTING ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND OVERALL SETTLEMENT ISSUES.

4. EX DEFMIN MOSHE DAYAN ON OTHER HAND HAS COME OUT FORCEFULLY AGAINST INTERIM AGREEMENT ON GROUNDS THAT A) IT WOULD PLACE EGYPT EAST OF PASSES WITHOUT BRINGING PEACE ANY NEARER, THUS LEAVING ISRAEL TO FACE RISK OF CONFRONTING EGYPTIAN ARMY THREE YEARS FROM NOW FROM DISADVANTAGEOUS STRATEGIC POSITION AND B) WHATEVER EGYPT MAY PROMISE TO USG NOW, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO STAND ASIDE IN CASE OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES. REJECTING STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND PHILOSOPHY OF GAINING TIME (FOR TIME'S SAKE) DAYAN HAS URGED INSTEAD THAT GOI NOW TRY TO DETERMINE LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVES OF SOVIETS, EGYPTIAN AND SYRIANS IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA WHICH, WITH OR WITHOUT INTERIM AGREEMENT, IS NEXT ON AGENDA. (ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GOI OFFICIALS HAVE CRITICIZED DAYAN FOR GIVING MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF ISSUES AT STAKE; THESE OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT IF ISRAEL CEDES PASSES, THEY WILL BE OCCUPIED BY UNEF OR OTHER THIRD PARTY -- NOT BY EGYPT).

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5. PRIME MINISTER'S MILITARY ADVISOR ARIEL "ARIK" SHARON, WHO HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES AND OILFIELDS ALL ALONG, HAS REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED VIEW THAT GOI SHOULD REJECT INTERIM AGREEMENT ON TERMS PROPOSED. IN HAARETZ JULY 6 FRONTPAGE STORY "ASSOCIATES OF SHARON" CLAIM THAT HE CONTINUES TO REGARD PASSES AS ESSENTIAL TO ISRAELI SECURITY, AND THAT ON THIS POINT HE BELIEVES THERE IS COMPLETE

IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN RABIN AND HIMSELF. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES "THERE HAS BEEN NO EROSION IN RABIN'S POSITION."

6. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS ARE INTENDED TO AFFECT ONGOING CONSULTATIONS AND FINALLY CABINET'S DECISION. DAYAN'S PURPOSE APPEARS TO BE TO PUT PRESSURE ON PERES, AND TO WARN RABIN -- IN CASE HE HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT IT -- THAT HE CANNOT COUNT ON UNIFIED SUPPORT OF RAFI FACTION. AT SAME TIME PN WEIZMAN'S ENDORSEMENT OPENS WAY FOR OTHER LIKUD MAVERICKS TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM LIKUD POSITION. IMPACT OF THESE VIEWS ON GOI LEADERSHIP IS STILL UNCLEAR.
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